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Social and economic impacts of carbon sequestration and land use change on peasant households in rural China: A case study of Liping, Guizhou Province

Author(s): Xu W, Yin Y, Zhou S

Year: 2007

Journal: Journal of Environmental Management. 85 (3): 736-745

Abstract:

Numerous innovative approaches to mitigate effects of excessive emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) on global climate change are being proposed and formulated. Sequestering carbon to terrestrial ecosystems represents one of the important clean development mechanisms. Reforestation through converting various non-forest lands to forests is undoubtedly an important dimension of carbon sequestration. Using Liping County in Guizhou Province as a case region, this study examines the perceived change in social and economic livelihoods of peasants and the factors responsible for the variations in the changes. The results of the study reveal that socio-economic changes associated with the government-financed project are multifaceted and profound. Because of the financial subsidies provided by the central government, this environmental action in many aspects can be regarded as a poverty reduction measure in the underdeveloped area where rural poverty is widespread. A majority of peasant households have benefited from project participation. The land conversion project with continued financial support also contributes to the social transformations of traditional rural society in remote areas to a more mobile, less subsistence agriculture-based, and open society.

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2006.09.013

Resource Description

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Unspecified Exposure

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Landslides

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity

Geographic Feature: M

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Mountain, Other Geographical Feature

Other Geographical Feature : sub-tropical forests

Geographic Location: M

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resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: China

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ■

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Intervention: M

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ™

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: M

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup, Workers

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Not specified

Resource Type: M

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ■

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content